

Council on Mentally ill Offenders (COMIO)
September 14, 2016 Meeting Minutes

LOCATION: Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations Headquarters
1515 S Street, Kern/Colorado Conference Room
Sacramento, CA

In Attendance

- Scott Kernan, Chair, Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- Manuel Jimenez, Vice Chair, Behavioral Health Director, Alameda County
- Jessica Cruz, Executive Director, The National Alliance on Mental Illness-California
- Mathew Garcia, Field Training Officer, Sacramento Police Department
- Brenda Grealish, Chief, Mental Health Services Division, California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) (representing DHCS Director Jennifer Kent)
- David Meyer, J.D., Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, Law, and Behavioral Science, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California

By Phone

- Alfred Joshua, MD, MBA, FAAEM Chief Medical Officer, San Diego County Sheriff's Department
- Lester Pincu, D.CRIM

CDCR Staff

- Diana Toche, DDS, Undersecretary Health Care Services, CDCR
- Stephanie Welch, MSW, Executive Officer
- Renee Whitehead, Administrative Assistant

Guest Speakers

- Ryken Grattet, PhD, Research Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)
- Scott MacDonald, Retired Chief Probation Officer, Santa Cruz County with California Forward
- Denise Allen, Chief of Research, CDCR
- Geoff R. Twitchell, PhD, Director of Treatment and Clinical Services, San Diego Probation
- Carolyn S. Dewa Ph.D., Director, Behavioral Health Center of Excellence's, Outcomes and Evaluation Core, University of California at Davis
- Meredith Evans, MFT, and Megan Ginilo, MPA, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health
- Sophia Lai, J.D., Esq., Manager, Innovations in Reentry Project and Janet Biblin, MPP/MPH, Program Manager, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services
- Armando Sandoval, BART Police CIT Coordinator, Community Outreach Liaison

Welcome and introductions

Special Guest: *Ryken Grattet, PhD, Research Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)*

Dr. Grattet shared an overview of preliminary findings of the PPIC's 12-county study, which is a partnership with the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) in collaboration with CDCR. The goals of the study are to track how jails and prisons are changing through realignment, connect county data with state data, and to give counties the tools to do continuous self-evaluation, which includes looking at the impact of programs on recidivism. The study is in phase II, which requires working directly with counties. Phase III is when the project will be handed off to the BSCC to maintain. Some general patterns so far:

- Clearly there are “super-utilizers” or people who use the jail at significantly higher rates than others;
- The super utilizers appear to be more involved in property crimes and possibly have substance use or co-occurring challenges;
- Assessments are not being used as much as they could be in jails, (e.g. risk and need assessments, brief mental health screenings, and substance use screening tools). These tools need to be gender sensitive, but they don't have to be complicated. Tools should be selected so that anyone can use them; and
- More county guidance on how to share data electronically would be very helpful.

COMIO members suggested some additional questions that PPIC could pursue with the study or future studies.

- Could you document the cost of the super utilizers?
- Can you analyze types of behavioral health programming provided and assess its effect on recidivism?
- Can you assess for additional influencing variables like county demographics such as rates of homelessness, race and ethnicity, employment/educational status, marital or relationship status?

Special Guest: *Scott MacDonald, Retired Chief Probation Officer, Santa Cruz County and with California Forward (CAFWD)*

Mr. MacDonald presented on CAFWD's Justice System Change Initiative (JSCI) and a product of that initiative - Jail Utilization Reports. CAFWD seeks to support counties in developing the capacity to use data to make informed decisions in policy and practice. In this case, to better understand and address the changing and growing jail population. Much of the growth and change is with individuals who have a mental illness and/or substance use disorder. Specifically, they wanted to look at what was happening on the outside of jail to determine why so many individuals were going to jail. Some key themes from the work:

- People with mental illness were not doing well in probation and had significantly more violations – not new crimes – that sent them into jail;

- The project's success required endorsement from the County Board of Supervisors and Chief Administrative Officer as they were the ones making decisions about budgets. Under their leadership county agencies and departments could be actively involved; and
- Counties need clarity on when and how to share data, creative ways to finance mental health services (especially outside of jail), and involve the courts and judges so they use their resources more efficiently as well.
 - Lessons Learned
 1. Lack of shared data around SMI and jail utilization;
 2. Dearth of treatment to reduce jail utilization;
 3. Lawsuits focus on in jail services/improving conditions, not reducing reliance on jail;
 4. Lack of co-ownership between behavioral health and criminal justice for this population; and
 5. While we know there are strategies that work, they are under applied.

Special Guest: *Denise Allen, Chief of Research, CDCR*

Dr. Allen presented on the CDCR 2015 Evaluation Outcome Research Report. In August 2016 CDCR released a report that showed that the three-year return-to-prison rate for offenders was 44.6%, nearly 10% points lower than the previous year demonstrating the effective impact of realignment reforms, which intended to keep non-serious and non-violent offenders at the local level. Similar success among offenders who had a designated mental health status was also evident at about 10%, but those with the highest mental health needs still had a 3-year return-to-prison rate over 60% (CDCR Evaluation 2016). Despite improvement, 60% still points out the need to do better. COMIO members requested a break out of the data and return to prison rate by CCCMS and EOP and by county. This information could be presented in January 2017.

Public Comment - NONE

ACTION Item: Meeting Minutes were adopted

Special Guest: *Geoff R. Twitchell, PhD, Director of Treatment and Clinical Services, San Diego Probation*

Dr. Twitchell presented on San Diego County Probation's Trauma Responsive Unit (TRU) and shared the following key points:

- Unit was developed in response to growing numbers of medium to high risk youth in detention and that youth with significant trauma were over-represented in the justice-system;
- TRU is a cross system collaborate effort – Probation, Education, Health and Human Services, and Correctional Counselors;
- All youth are screened for trauma. Those with high rates and risk of interaction with the juvenile justice system, participate in TRU;
- Improvements in behavioral incidents and mood systems are significantly larger than standard treatment; and
- Strong commitment to quality assurance and fidelity monitoring.

After some discussion about the important role culture plays in working with juveniles in the justice system, Vice Chair Jimenez encouraged Dr. Twitchell to review the National Compadres program as a best practice for Latino youth.

The TRU project and the use of the Evidence-Based Correctional Program Checklist are being nominated for a COMIO Best Practices Award from the Juvenile Justice Committee. The project warrants such an award because it:

- Demonstrates the types of best practices COMIO has identified in the 2015 Annual Legislative Report;
- Provides opportunities for learning and exchanging knowledge; and
- Is consistent with existing criteria for a COMIO Best Practice Award, which include being
 - Collaborative in nature;
 - Demonstrating measurable success;
 - Having relevance to COMIO's purpose; and
 - Making a difference.

Public Comment - NONE

Motion Approved Unanimously: Honor the TRU Program and San Diego County Probation with a COMIO Best Practices Award.

Special Guest: *Carolyn S. Dewa Ph.D., Director, Behavioral Health Center of Excellence's, Outcomes and Evaluation Core, University of California at Davis*

Dr. Carolyn Dewa has been researching the evidence-base for pre-booking diversion strategies with law enforcement. In this presentation she reviewed the state of knowledge regarding the effectiveness of police-based pre-booking programs (i.e., Crisis Intervention Training [CIT] and Mobile Crisis Teams) in reducing arrests of people with mental illnesses. A few key points:

- CIT and mobile crisis do increase access to services;
- Training works if there are accompanying mental health services – without it is not an investment that reaps the same investment outcomes; and
- A recommendation that could be included in the COMIO report – a comprehensive evaluation of CIT is needed; identifying what elements are responsible for what effects and what “key ingredients” should be the aim of the diverse models emerging around the state.

Special Guests: *County Behavioral Health Criminal Justice Innovation Panel*

- Meredith Evans, MFT, and Megan Ginilo, MPA, Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health, AB109 Innovations Project
- Sophia Lai, J.D., Esq., Manager, Innovations in Reentry Project and Janet Biblin, MPP/MPH, Program Manager, Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services, Case and Care Management: Pathway to Reentry- Armando Sandoval, BART Police CIT Coordinator, Community Outreach Liaison County Collaboration

Administrators and program implementers from both a large/urban and small/rural county discussed strategies they were using to address the incarceration of people with mental illness and/or substance use. Various strategies range from the use of peers for engagement and system navigation, multi-disciplinary teams to serve the forensic mental health population including public defenders, probation, behavioral health, law enforcement and judges, and crisis intervention training for nearly all Bay Area Rapid Transit officers.

Executive Officer Report

Ms. Welch thanked COMIO summer interns, Montana Strol-Roy and Connor Jang, for their service and announced that COMIO's new staff member will start in October. Other announcements included:

- Communications Update
 - Website Improvements
 - Electronic Newsletter
 - Guest Articles
 - Stakeholder Log Attachment
- Meeting Format Changes and Scheduling for 2017
- Workplan Update and Legislative Report Review Workgroup - draft recommendations will be the focus of the November 2nd meeting

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda

COMIO was encouraged to do press outreach and dissemination with the 2016 Annual Legislative Report

Adjourned